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## Maine NOW Times (May 1988)

National Organization of Women - Maine State Conference Staff

*National Organization of Women - Maine State Conference*

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# MAINE NOW TIMES

MAY 1988

## STATE COORDINATOR'S COLUMN by Beth Edmonds

In the last issue of the Maine NOW Times, I encouraged all of you to do the work for women's liberation that speaks to you. WELL...in case you haven't been able to think of anything that really represents your viewpoint, allow me to give you some ideas. We in Maine NOW have had a good year with some real victories. The most recent, of course, is our work in invalidating signatures on the Parental Consent referendum and thereby keeping that off the ballot. However, there are still many areas that could use our influence and viewpoint. The taskforce format is one that has not been used of late on the Maine NOW Board and perhaps now is the time to activate that form. There are a number of taskforce possibilities that I have been thinking of and I am sure that you can come up with others that address a concern you have identified. The following are some beginning ideas.

TASKFORCE ON WOMEN AND PEACE

TASKFORCE ON ELIMINATING RACISM

TASKFORCE ON WOMEN AND AIDS

I am sure that you will have additional ideas, so please let me know. What these taskforces will do remains to be discussed with you and the state board. However, I hope that each group will gather the thinking of as many Maine NOW members as possible and then put forward policies and programs that move us forward in alliance building and public education, and that broaden our organization making it more inclusive. It will also mean at least one person willing to commit themselves to attend the state board meetings, which meet every 6 weeks, and to report on ideas from the taskforces.

SO...if your interests lie in an area that Maine NOW is not presently active in then consider forming or serving on a taskforce that will educate the rest of our members and move us forward. Remember, there is room for many leaders. There is work enough for all of us to take charge of the piece that means something to us.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Taskforce Idea \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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return to Beth Edmonds, 9 Guptill Ave., Freeport, ME 04032

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## NATIONAL NOW CONFERENCE - JUNE 24-26, 1988 - BUFFALO, NEW YORK

The celebration of "Women's Vision, Voices and Votes: The Feminization of Power" will begin Thursday, June 23, in Seneca Falls, NY. Maine NOW members will be attending the Conference and we are interested in taking a van full of people to the conference. If you are interested in joining, please call Beth Edmonds at 865-3869.

Some of the features of the conference include a reenactment of the first Women's Rights Convention held 140 years ago, with presentation and debate of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's "Declaration of Sentiments." Included also are free tours of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton house, the Women's Presbyterian Church from which Alice Paul announced the first ERA in 1923. Other entertainment will include comedienne Roseanne Barr, singer Judy Collins, and the all-women comedy and dance band "Tres Shah Na Na." Speakers will include Charlotte Fedders, author of "Shattered Dreams," and Shirley Chisholm. Finally, if you want to see Niagara Falls from the Canadian side make sure to bring some proof of US citizenship for reentry into the United States.

Do hope you will consider joining in this informative and exciting celebration of women's history and future.

**FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR**

by Lisa Fraser Popp, Maine NOW Legislative Coordinator

The 113th Regular Second Session of the Maine State Legislature recessed on April 21 and reconvened on May 4 for final voting decisions on the Governor's vetoes and other bills. This was an exciting session for me because I was able to get to know many of our State Representatives and Senators - as well as other lobbyists and employees at the State House. I realized how hard our legislators work - and especially those who are our feminist friends and allies. I am grateful for their presence in Augusta.

Please find below a list of bills that were on the WLAC (Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition) agenda. All bills on the agenda passed in one way, shape or form - some were compromised dramatically while others passed with flying colors! What an impressive record!!!

Bills approved by the Legislature and signed by Governor McKernan become effective 90 days following legislative adjournment.

**LD 2534 - An Act to Ensure Family and Medical Leave in the State of Maine.**

Entitles eligible employees up to 8 weeks of unpaid leave for the birth or adoption of a child, or the serious illness of self, child, spouse, or parent. Applies to all Maine business with 25 or more employees, and extends eligibility to workers who have been employed by the same employer for 12 consecutive months.

**LD 2150 - An Act to Provide for Child Care and Child Development Training for Student Parents.**

Encourages local school districts to establish on-site child care services for student parents, and child development training courses by allowing those costs to be recovered through the state education funding formula.

**LD 2548 - An Act to Correct Inequities in the Maine State Retirement System.**

Repeals discriminatory provision in the state retirement laws by allowing state employees and teachers to designate anyone as beneficiary eligible for full survivor benefits (such status was previously restricted to a child, spouse, or parent.)

**LD 2571 - Resolution, to Make the Language of the Constitution Gender Neutral.**

Proposes to eliminate gender-biased language from the Constitution of Maine. To be presented for voter approval on November General Election ballot.

**LD 2324 - An Act to Require Mandatory Medicare Assignment for Physician Services in Maine.**

Imposes a financial penalty on physicians and other medical providers who fail to post their policy regarding Medicare assignment.

**LD 2242 - An Act to Make Health Care More Accessible to Low-Income Elderly and Disabled Individuals, Pregnant Women, and Children.**

Establishes a federally-approved option to extend Medicaid benefits to pregnant women and infants whose family incomes are below 185% of the poverty level, and to eligible senior citizens, disabled individuals, and children up to 5 years old whose family incomes are below 100% of the poverty level (effective 10/1/88).

**LD 2492 - An Act to Expand the Medicaid Dental Program to Include Adults.**

Expands Medicaid dental benefits to eligible adults for emergency services, including oral surgical care for injury and infection, and other services necessary to relieve acute pain (effective 1/1/89).

The following two bills were "amended into" the Governor's supplemental budget bill. **An Act to Improve the Standard of Living for Maine's Low-Income Families.** (Originally LD 2212).

Provides a 5% increase in the payment standard for AFDC families (budget also provides for 10% increase in the AFDC standard of need (effective 1/1/89).

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Job Reclassification Study of the University of Maine.**

Authorizes reclassification of jobs in the clerical, technical, office, and laboratory divisions in the UM system to ensure economic parity to/comparable worth with occupations in other divisions.

**LD 2582 - An Act to Increase the Minimum Wage.**

This bill will increase the minimum wage by \$.10 effective January 1, 1989, and January 1, 1990.

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LD 2517 - An Act to Increase Work Incentive in the Unemployment Insurance Partial Benefit Structure.

Maine law currently provides unemployment benefits to persons employed part-time while seeking full-time work. However, those benefits are reduced dollar for dollar, after a small disregard, by their wages. This bill will allow part-time wage earners to retain a \$25.00 disregard instead of the current \$10.00 disregard.

#### Governor Vetoes Child Care Bill

LD 2205 - An Act to Establish Child Care Availability for Individuals in the Substance Abuse Treatment System.

Proposed to establish 3 pilot child care service programs for individuals entering in-patient substance abuse rehabilitation programs. This bill was vetoed by the Governor on April 27. Following are some excerpts of his stated reasons for vetoing the legislation.

"...There is very limited data about child care needs in this population, and a \$300,000 investment in pilot projects would not be a practical means of filling the information gap that exists. Moreover, the Department of Human Services could not ensure proper oversight for expenditure of these funds with so little information and legislative language to guide them.

"Equally important, this legislation would fragment Maine's effort to develop systematically a comprehensive child care system...

"Finally, these funds would come out of the Alcohol Premium Fund, effectively reducing by 75% the funds that were to have been carried over from 1989 into 1990 to ensure a continuing level of operations for existing alcohol and drug abuse services. An expenditure of this proportion, with this degree of impact on the existing level of services through 1990, requires far more analysis and justification than is available for these pilot projects....

"I will propose, as an interim measure, that a certain number of child care slots be set aside for this population. Furthermore, during the remainder of this year, we will obtain additional information from the treatment system and assess availability of child care resources in each geographic area of the Resource Centers. Long-term recommendations for meeting the needs of this group will be included in my legislative package to be submitted to the 114th Legislature."

Governor McKernan's veto was sustained by an 81-61 vote in the House.

Representative Marge Clark, sponsor of the bill, is planning to reintroduce it next year as she believes that there is a strong need for this service in Maine. I also did a fair amount of digging around on this topic and also found, as the Governor stated, that there is a lack of information on this need. I believe this is true because of the confidentiality factors regarding substance abusers. I intend to continue working on this bill with Representative Clark.

#### ASPIRE - Additional Support for People in Retraining and Education

I have included some information on the Governor's ASPIRE Program. This information was given to WLAC members by Chris Hastedt of Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc., in Augusta. She has been our WLAC expert on ASPIRE and her work and knowledge in this area have been invaluable.

#### ASPIRE

The Governor's proposed welfare reform legislation was significantly changed as it passed through the legislative process. The final version includes the following:

a) Mandated Participation: The Governor's original proposal called for mandating participation in ASPIRE for teen parents and individuals with children 3 years of age and over. Failure to participate would have resulted in loss of AFDC benefits. The final version requires participation of teen parents but prohibits any loss of benefits for failure to participate. Instead, teens not participating will not get the certain benefits available only to those who do, e.g. special clothing allowance.

Parents with children 3 or older will be required to participate and may lose benefits for failure to do so. However, parents with children with special needs (broadly defined) and exempt under present law will be exempt from participating. In addition, the new law makes clear that non-exempt persons will not lose benefits if they fail to participate for good cause.

The Department of Human Services must assure that adequate funds are available to serve all volunteers before other recipients can be mandated to participate.

b) AFDC Benefits to First Time Pregnant Women: The State will be required effective 1/1/89 to provide AFDC cash benefits to first time pregnant women beginning 90 days prior to the expected date of birth of her child.

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c) Transitional Support Services: The Department will continue to provide support services (i.e. transportation, child care, etc.) to former AFDC recipients for up to one year after they have become employed.

d) Transitional Medical Assistance: Individuals who lose their AFDC as a result of employment obtained from participating in ASPIRE will have their Medicaid benefits continued for up to 12 months. If the income of the individual falls within a certain range, the individual may be required to contribute to the cost of the coverage, or may not be eligible for the coverage at all.

e) Termination and Evaluation: The entire ASPIRE program will end on July 1, 1990, unless continued by the legislature.

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Finally, there were additional housing and child care bills worked on this session primarily by Joanne D'Arcangelo of the Maine Women's Lobby. I have not included that information in this newsletter only because of the amount of pages this could pile up to! Please call me at 892-2668 if you would like information on this. I can send you info by mail.

As you can see we do have a strong voice in Augusta!! Thank you for your support.

In addition to being active with the 113th Legislature, I recently have had the honor of being appointed with 25 other women to the Maine Commission for Women's Southern Regional Advisory Board. There have been three of these advisory boards formed and we will do work in such areas as research, advocacy, information and referral, and promotion of activities designed to meet the needs of women. I am excited to be a part of this as this is a brand new concept of the Commission and we are the "grassroots" members. I am proud to be part of it as a NOW member. I will share aspects of what we are doing in future newsletters as soon as we get going. Our first meeting will be held in May.

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#### Attention! - New Editorial Section!

A few board meetings ago, it was discussed that we start having a column in the Maine NOW Times - a sort of "Dear Bag Lady" humorous column. I would like to see this take place in addition to perhaps a sort of "Feminist Editorial" section where we can write about our thoughts, ideas, and experiences (humorous or serious) and share them with other members. I personally feel a need to share my thoughts and would like to hear about other women's lives and how they, in their daily lives, deal with sexism, stereotyping, and racial discrimination, among other things.

I decide to write this editorial, and put it in the Times and see what happens. I am hoping for letters in response, phone calls, about your experiences or comments, etc. So we can put them in the next issue.

If you would like to write a humorous or serious editorial or letter, you can be anonymous or not, please send to: Lisa Fraser Popp, PO Box 309, Windham ME 04062. Or you can telephone me at 207-892-2668 if you have questions. Thanks! Can't wait to hear from YOU.

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#### Editorial: by Lisa Fraser Popp

I have had, on several occasions recently, the opportunity to introduce myself as the Legislative Coordinator for NOW. On one occasion I was attending a class and after we all stood and said who we were and what we do, we took a break. At that time, a man in the class immediately approached me and said, "You don't look like a NOW person!" I replied, "Oh no? What does a NOW person look like?" He was unable to answer but I am sure he had envisioned in his mind some sort of "radical" looking woman, whatever a "radical" woman looks like! (Something created in the 1960's perhaps?)

Just 3 weeks ago, I gave a presentation to a group of business women on "Legislation Impacting Maine Women." We discussed, to my great enjoyment, issues such as family medical leave, child care and pay equity. I announced that I lobby for NOW in Augusta. One woman raised her hand and said that she has always steered clear of "women's political groups" because of stereotyped ideas and fears she has.

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She then said "But look at you! You have on a pink suit and have blond curly hair! You don't look like a NOW feminist!" (I thought to myself again, "What does a feminist look like anyway!")

I hope that if these women learned anything from my talk that evening, it was that women do not have to look a certain way to care and be active on women's rights. The realization hit me like a bomb (particularly that night because of the great interest in "feminist" issues) that there must be thousands of interested and intelligent women who would like to participate politically in women's issues and feel they may not "fit-in", because perhaps they look or act "feminine" or "masculine" or have some other prejudices about being a "feminist". This disturbs me deeply. This is the very stereotyping we are working to eliminate. We must eliminate these stereotyped images of people from our minds and eliminate them ESPECIALLY WITHIN our own movement. All women need to unite and ignore stereotypes and labels that were designed by society and the status quo to stunt our progress toward equality. I have made a personal commitment to work to eliminate stereotyped opinions among women I come in contact with about "feminism." After all, as women, we are all in this thing together.

Lisa Popp, Windham



#### NORTHEAST REGIONAL NOW CONFERENCE

#### NEW REGIONAL OFFICERS ELECTED

On the weekend of April 16, 1988, our state along with New Hampshire NOW hosted the Northeast Regional NOW Conference in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Our national NOW President, Molly Yard, was the keynote speaker. She gave us a great speech about the history of the Equal Rights Amendment and its recent reintroduction into the Congress. There were workshops on leadership development, PAC's, surrogacy, parental consent laws, and others, but the main order of business was the election of our regional officers. At the end of voting, the following people had been elected:

Regional Director - Sue Stevens Larsen - Albany NOW

Board Members - Jackie Zachery - Connecticut NOW

- Geraldine Miller - Brooklyn NOW

- Helene Weitzenkorn - Massachusetts NOW

Nominating Committee Representative - Kathleen Stevens-Arvanitis - Massachusetts NOW

These people are our representatives on the National Board of NOW. They usually are in contact with your chapter representatives giving the reports from the National Board meetings. If you would like more information I am sure that they would be happy to talk with you. We will print their addresses and phone numbers in the next issue of the Maine NOW Times.

Finally, I wanted to let you know what fine people we have in Maine NOW. Maine NOW was responsible for credentialling all the memberships for voting purposes. This is a job that requires calm and reason. Headed by Pam Prodan, our state board secretary, our committee was given praise for its good work. I would like to personally extend my thanks to all the Maine NOW members who helped on this conference in any way. In every circumstance Maine NOW members are willing and able to do whatever work is necessary and I deeply appreciate that support.

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DO YOU WANT TO HELP MAINE NOW PAC????

As we approach the election season, Maine NOW PAC will be sending out a questionnaire to candidates to evaluate their positions on important issues. It is always best to follow-up these questionnaires with phone calls. Are you interested in doing some of the phone work for Maine NOW? If so, please call Legislative Coordinator Lisa Popp, at 892-7219.



#### MAINE NOW STATE CONFERENCE - SOMETHING NEW AND DIFFERENT THIS YEAR!!!

How would you like to elect new officers, raise money for Maine NOW and have a helluva good time all at the same event?? Well, so would we. So this year we will be combining all those functions in one event held this fall. Bangor NOW has agreed to coordinate a concert/conference for Maine NOW. We will keep you posted as to the artist or group that will perform, but rest assured they will be feminist winners. We will have a business meeting in the early evening in order to elect our officers and then the performance will begin. More on our plans for the fall in a later issue of the Maine NOW Times.

## NOTES FROM REP. MARGARET PRUITT CLARK

Congresswoman Pat Schroeder recently announced the formation of her Fund for the Future so that there will be a forum for the discussion of family issues. The Children's Defense Fund is also committed to making 1988 the year to insist that politicians, particularly Democrats, include families in their political goals. I too have felt the necessity of making family issues **our** issues and not the issues of the right wing. Below are some excerpts from a speech that I have had the opportunity to give several times this winter and spring. I hope you will use it as a springboard to challenge the legislative candidates in your area or if you are working on a campaign, to share with and encourage your candidate to speak out about what a truly pro-family agenda should look like.

For too long, those of us on the left have let others define the terms of the family debate. To be against the right-wing agenda was to be anti-family. It is time, past time, for us to take charge of the family debate and to define the parameters. What is good for women and children is good for families. On the other hand, the family as it has been defined historically may not necessarily or always be good for children or their parents.

The first step is a definition of family. The 1980 White House Conference on Families finally agreed on one suggested by the American Home Economics Association, hardly a radical group. The Home Economics Association defines a family as "two or more persons who share resources, share responsibilities for decisions, share values and goals, and have commitments to one another over time. The family is that climate that one 'comes home to', and it is this network of sharing and commitments that most accurately describes the family unit, regardless of blood, legal ties, adoptions or marriage."

In 1980, only 30% of American households included a father, a mother and one or more children. In two-thirds of those households both parents, not just the male, are wage earners. As people have fewer children and live longer, households are "childless" for longer and longer periods of time. One-sixth of our children live in single parent households. We know that many additional adults live with other adults in family arrangements not acknowledged by our more traditional definition of family.

A progressive family policy will legitimate these other family forms - significant others need to be acknowledged in health care decisions, in insurance, in credit arrangements, and in running a household. The Legislature made an important step in this area this session when it agreed that we should be able to designate other than a blood relative as our pension beneficiary without that designee losing the amount of the pension that the state had paid. We need to continue to move the debate about significant others along.

A progressive family policy supports the ability of couples to control their childbearing. When women were kept pregnant, they were kept barefoot and in the kitchen. Older women have realized the power which comes from planning for rather than just having children.

We must make it possible for younger women and teens to also be able to choose when to bear children. Good sex education courses give teens the information that they need to make appropriate decisions about their sexual lives. We need to provide teens with information about parenting and how early motherhood diminishes not only their life options but also their babies' chances. We know that children who feel that they have meaningful futures with hope for social and economic advancement are more likely to postpone sexual activity until they are mature enough to practice consistent, effective contraception.

We need to provide services to teens before they are sexually active, not after they fear a pregnancy. The Task Force on Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting were very clear that teenagers need services that are accessible, and inexpensive or free. Most importantly, they need to be assured that the services are confidential and do not require parental consent. Family Planning in Maine lost \$50,000 in federal money because of the Gramm-Rudman budget cuts. Although the Governor says he is concerned about teen pregnancy, all initiatives around this issue have been proposed by Democrats. In each of the last two fiscal years, the Governor has included no new money for services for prevention or for pregnant or parenting teens.

If teens are pregnant, we need to provide them with information so that they can continue to make choices. The parental consent referendum was not about family communication; it was about a parent's attempt to control a sexually mature young woman. I was certainly proud that it was many NOW activists, under the very capable direction of Merrie Allen and Lucie Bauer, who spend the many, many hours it took to determine that Maine Right to Life did not have the necessary signatures.

A truly pro-family policy supports a teen when she does decide to carry her pregnancy to term. The policies of the Reagan and McKernan administration do not! The Children's Defense Fund has noted that "for every dollar we invest in early and continuous prenatal care through Medicaid, Title V, and other programs, thereby decreasing infant mortality and rate of low birthweight, studies show that we save anywhere from \$3 to \$11 in the costs of medical care after birth and of institutional

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care for some of the babies who would have been born handicapped.

Democrats fought for and won major initiatives this year which will provide additional Medicaid benefits for pregnant women and for children under the WIC program. Additionally, starting in January all first time pregnant women who will be eligible for AFDC can begin receiving it in the last trimester of their pregnancy rather than after the baby is born.

A progressive family policy helps rather than hinders families' abilities to provide for their children. It encourages fathers to stay with their families rather than leaving them. It requires that absent fathers participate in meeting their children's financial needs. Even with the improving economy, more children are living in poverty now than when Ronald Reagan took office. During the first four years of his administration, another half million female-headed families fell into poverty. Women-maintained families now account for about half of all poor families and about half of all poor persons. AFDC is still paying only about 75% of the standard of need.

We must find ways to tackle the housing problem which is becoming increasingly acute, particularly in the southern part of the state. Increasingly, the homeless are families. In 1983, 6.3 million lower income households spent more than half of their incomes for housing and utilities. It's been estimated that low income households in the northern states, including Maine, spend up to 20% of their income for energy costs.

Job training, transportation assistance, child care and medical services may all be needed by a mother who is trying to provide for her children. I worked very hard in the Human Resources Committee to insure that those programs would be there under the new ASPIRE package for an extended period if necessary. We lost, however, in extending the very successful WEET programs to other parts of the state. Governor McKernan succeeded in getting his plan of having the Department of Labor and the less successful Job Opportunity Training Act provide the supports to get women off the welfare rolls rather than the Department of Human Services. The Governor also vetoed the minimum wage in 1987 and signed a \$.10 an hour increase only reluctantly, forcing many families deeper into poverty.

At minimum wage and with no benefits, a parent can work 40 hour week and still not get her family out of poverty. Almost one quarter of households headed by women who work full time have incomes that fall below the poverty level. Nevertheless, many women report that they stay on AFDC not for the money it provides, but for the health benefits. That's why the Democrats insisted that a good medical plan for women as they transition off welfare was so important.

A progressive family policy recognizes that work and family are not and cannot be totally separate. Parents don't cease to be parents when they enter the workplace and workers may take their work home, either literally or figuratively. We should be encouraging employers to experiment with flex time and job sharing. The State as an employer ought to be doing the same. We need to continue to expand the Family Medical Leave Act which I sponsored this session.

A progressive family policy has got to acknowledge that very few of our children are raised in households where an adult is home full time. Yet, we have been very reluctant to encourage and support reasonable childcare. It has been estimated that only between 1/3 and 1/2 of our children who need care are in licensed day care situations. Many of our children are unsupervised before and after school.

A progressive family policy must include a commitment to pay and educational equity. Employment inequity cheats families of the earning potential of their female wage-earner whether she is sole support of her children or a team-earner with her husband.

Additionally, we must recognize that "women's work" has value. If we truly valued families, we would financially recognize the importance of caring for children, the sick, the handicapped and the aged. At best, persons who perform these tasks must be adequately compensated for doing them. As interim steps, we must give caregivers social security credits and equal claim to family income. We must provide portable IRA's and disability insurance for "homemakers." Additionally, we must give families tax credits when they need to purchase rather than personally provide dependent care.

A progressive family policy recognizes that every member has the right to feel safe at home. Domestic violence, the battering of women and its impact on their children, is one of this country's most serious problems. It is also one of our most frequently committed crimes. Battering is the single major cause of injury to women, exceeding rapes, mugging and auto accidents combined.

Finally, a progressive family policy allows seniors to maximize options for their old age. Seniors, particularly those over 85, often need some personal care assistance, but frequently could function in their own homes if our laws allowed for more liberal use of home and health care assistance. Current Medicare regulations only allow for nursing home payments if the client has first been hospitalized. Many families must pauperize themselves to receive Medicaid assistance and the "name on the instrument" rule discounts the planning done and the assumptions made by couples that spousal income will be shared in old age. On the other hand, it is my personal

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belief that seniors should not necessarily get state or federal assistance just because of their age. We should readjust our priorities so more help is available for those who need it.

Certainly the primary focus of long-term care must be the frail elder in need of care. But public policy cannot afford to ignore the needs of the caregiver. These women need not only financial support but respite or day care services for their aging family members.

In conclusion, I would argue that we must redefine what a pro-family policy is. I believe that a pro-family policy acknowledges and strengthens families by giving value to all its members, not just the father. A pro-family policy encourages and recognizes the contributions of all family members, from the youngest to the oldest. A pro-family policy encourages family self-sufficiency but supports those families in need. A pro-family policy assumes that families are safe havens but provides for persons who are not safe and who are in need of care or assistance. A pro-family policy is based on the assumption that families come in all shapes and sizes and that they will endure.

I challenge you to challenge your political candidate to share this vision of our future.

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#### MAINE NOW PAC REPORT

Congratulations to Barb Wood, the successful challenger for the at-large Portland City Council seat. Barb, an activist with Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, had the support of the Maine NOW PAC. Many Portland NOW members worked in her campaign. They showed us what hard work and determination can do.

Five NOW members are seeking election or re-election to the Maine State Legislature. Susan Farnsworth (19A Winthrop St., Hallowell 04347) faces a three-way primary but is running an aggressive door-to-door campaign and things look good. Mary Cathcart (120 Main St., Orono 04473), long time activist, seeks to fill Rep. Steve Bost's seat in the fall.

Senator Nancy Clark (RR 2 Box 37, Freeport 04032), Rep. Charlene Rydell (3 Baribeau Dr., Brunswick 04011), Rep. Susan Dore (44 Goodrich Ave., Auburn 04210) and Rep. Marge Clark (5 Quarry Rd., Brunswick 04011) are all seeking re-election.

Maine NOW PAC encourages you to support any or all of these NOW members, both financially and by volunteering to work in their campaigns. Having these women in the legislature really has made a difference for the women and children of this state.

The PAC questionnaire should be ready within the month and will go out to all candidates. If there are candidates in your area that you want the PAC to know more about, please do not hesitate to send your comments to Beth Edmonds, 9 Guptill Ave., Freeport 04032, or PAC Treasurer JoAnne Dauphinee, 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer 04412. We do the best we can with voting records and questionnaire answers, but your first hand information about both good and bad candidates is invaluable when we make our general election recommendations. Member input is always welcomed by the PAC.

If you would be willing to do some phone follow-up with non-respondents this summer, please let Beth or JoAnne know that too.

Send campaign contributions directly to the candidates listed above, or to JoAnne at her address above. We will see that they reach many other feminist candidates between now and the fall election.

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#### MAINE NOW CHAPTER REPORTS

##### Greater Farmington NOW

Usually meets second Wednesday of each month. Our May meeting featured a showing of "A Question of Silence" - a 1983 Dutch film which focuses on a psychiatrist who evaluates three women who have committed a murder. She wonders if their crime may have been an instinctive reaction to the lifelong oppression of a male-dominated society.

The June meeting will be the annual pot-luck meeting at which we plan for the fall season's activities.

For more information on meeting locations, etc., please call 778-6738.

##### Midcoast NOW

Midcoast NOW is now into our third year. Recent meetings have included: a demonstration of NOW feminist consciousness raising; a presentation on Women and AIDS by Peaches Bass, AIDS Educator in the State Bureau of Health; a talk on Teen Pregnancy by Mary Bollinger, Community Educator for Midcoast Family Planning in Rockland; a strategy session on the Parental Consent Referendum led by State Coordinator Beth Edmonds; a celebration of the 15th anniversary of Roe v. Wade; a screening of The Road I Took To You, a film about women and mental illness; a presentation on "How to Survive a Divorce" by attorney Carol Lundquist of Rockland, and a discussion on the child care crisis entitled, "In Search of Affordable Child Care." In May we will have discussed "Women and Work", and on June 22nd, we will discuss the state political conventions and the upcoming elections. In the summer, we're off to the beach and a possible joint picnic with Kennebec Valley NOW.

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Midcoast NOW is represented on a steering committee planning a very exciting two year program to raise the career aspirations of female students at Georges Valley High School in Thomaston.

Midcoast NOW meets at 7 PM on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Methodist Conference Home, 39 Summer Street, Rockland.

#### Greater Bangor NOW

GBNOW is still meeting in Orono (we are consistently inconsistent!) at the U of M in 164 Estabrook, which is Amy's warm and comfortable apartment. Meetings are the fourth Monday of the month at 7 PM.

What have we been up to??? We were educated by Beth Edmonds on the Parental Consent legislation. We did some coalition work with Wellspring, Inc., (women's and men's alcohol halfway houses) on the bill for childcare resources for women with alcohol problems who need to go into inpatient treatment. We developed a women's music survey which we have been distributing at concerts and dances. We plan to use the info to put on more concerts. Speaking of concerts - we helped work on the Lucie Blue Tremblay concert which was held at U of M as part of Women's History Week. We also worked with BAGLSC on their big Casselberry-Dupree concert. Last, but not least, 3 members went to our first NOW Northeast Regional Conference in Portsmouth, NH - we were tired, but very impressed!

We will be looking into various artists' schedules to see who we might get for a concert for the NOW State Conference in the fall.

Meetings are usually the fourth Monday, Estabrook Hall, Room 164 (Amy's) at U of M, Orono - June 27, July 25. OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED!

Coordinator - Karen Hartnagle - 848-5359

Newsletter/State Brd/CR - JoAnne Dauphinee - 989-3306

Newsletter/Legislative - Pat Lissey - 989-7603

Treasurer - Chris Astran

Publicity - Amy Manville-Graham - 581-4545

Activists - Pam Wallace - 947-383, Albertine Henderson, Jennifer Vernon, YOU????

#### Greater Portland NOW

GPNOW meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at the YWCA at 87 Spring Street in Portland.

We also have a business meeting during the second week of the month. We announce the day and location in our chapter newsletter and at our meetings. Everyone is invited to attend. At the business meeting we generally plan our other meetings and talk about actions.

#### Brunswick Area NOW

Brunswick Area NOW started off 1988 with a goal-setting session at our January monthly meeting. As a result of that goal-setting, Mary Donnelly and Bettina Blanchard organized a Roe v. Wade fifteenth anniversary party (thrown together, publicized, and held all within two weeks!) complete with cake and sparkling cider, singing, two short talks, and a lot of good conversation; while Judy Lloyd organized a poster contest for Women's History week. Several of our members also devoted hours to decertifying the signatures on the Parental Consent petitions. And at the end of April, Helen Carson showed the video NOW's 20th Anniversary Gala Celebration at her home and chapter members invited friends to attend.

Our chapter meets on the first Wednesday of each month. We have a light supper (hearty soup with bread) at 6:30 and our meetings begin at 7:30, usually including a program and a few business items. People working on specific projects do some of their organizing at these meetings, but do the bulk of it between or at separate meetings.

At our February meeting we had State Senator Nancy Clark explained the caucus process to us. At our March meeting we had Jane Fisher from Family Planning and Rachel Lowe from Freeport High School talk about the parental consent referendum (since petition signature checking was then in high gear, we shortened the program and spent the next couple of hours on the petitions). Our April meeting was a fun and informal viewing and discussion of two short videos, One Fine Day and Take the Power. Our May meeting was devoted to a discussion of harassment and Sexual harassment with presentations by Audrey Alexander and chapter-member Joyce Oreskovich, as well as short reports from chapter members who attended workshops at the Northeast Regional Conference in Portsmouth on April 16.

Anyone interested in attending future meetings can call chapter coordinators Mary Donnelly at 729-5843 or Cynthia Phinney at 865-4489. Meetings are also listed in the Brunswick Times Record and (usually) the Coastal Journal, Maine Times, and Press Herald/Brunswick edition.



The Women's Commission of the National Council on Alcoholism will be strategizing about substance abuse treatment issues for women. If you want to be on a mailing list on this, contact Marge Clark, 5 Quarry Road, Brunswick 04011.

STATE AND CHAPTER CONTACTS:

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Lucie Bauer PO Box 327 Thomaston 04841	Asst. State Coord. Mid-Coast NOW 354-8545	Mary Garvey-Donnelly PO Box 133 Brunswick 04011	Brunswick Area 729-5843
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Pam Prodan Star Route Dryden 04225	Secretary	Lisa Fraser Popp PO Box 309 Windham 04062	Legis. Coord. 892-2668
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Annie Lunt PO Box 4012 Sta A Portland 04101	Greater Portland 926-3657	Chris Rusnov 2A Mar-val Terrace Winslow 04901	Kennebec Valley 873-0878

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Membership Form / Contribution Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(see above for list)

To become a member: To contribute:  
dues: \_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 full membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Maine NOW  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 - 34.00 sliding scale \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Maine NOW PAC  
based on your ability to pay.

Mail To: Maine NOW, 9 Guptill Ave., Freeport ME 04032

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